Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) An apparatus according to Claim 4[[1]], further comprising a speed specifying unit which receives from a user a desired speed, wherein said speed controller controls said intermediate image generator according to the desired speed.

3. (currently amended) An apparatus according to Claim 4[[1]], wherein said intermediate image comprises a plurality of intermediate images and said speed controller controls the number of intermediate images generated by said intermediate image generator.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, An image-effect apparatus, comprising:

 an intermediate image generator which acquires a first image, a second image and a corresponding point file for the first image and the second image and generates an intermediate image between the first image and the second image; and

 a speed controller which controls an operation of said intermediate image generator with respect to a speed at which the intermediate image is generated,

wherein the corresponding point file describes lattice points of a mesh taken on the first image and a positional relation of points in the second image which correspond to the lattice points.

5. (original) An apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising a display unit which displays the first image, the intermediate image, and the second image as a moving picture.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 6,~~ An image-effect apparatus, comprising:

    an image input unit which acquires a first image and a second image;

    a matching processor which computes a matching between the first image and the second image and then outputs a matching result as a corresponding point file;

    an intermediate image generator which generates an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the corresponding point file; and

    a speed controller which controls said intermediate image generator with respect to a speed at which the intermediate image is generated,

wherein said matching processor generates the corresponding point file in a manner such that a destination polygon in the second image corresponds to a source polygon of a mesh defined on the first image.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus according to Claim 7[[6]], wherein said matching processor performs a pixel-by-pixel matching computation based on correspondence between a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the first image and a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the second image.

9. (original) An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said matching processor initially multiresolutionalizes the first image and the second image using the critical points then performs the pixel-by-pixel matching computation between related multiresolution levels while also inheriting a result of a pixel-by-pixel matching computation at a different multiresolution level in order to acquire a pixel-by-pixel correspondence relation at a finest resolution level at a final stage.

10. (original) An apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising a communication unit which outputs the corresponding point file to an external unit.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus according to Claim 7[[6]], wherein said intermediate

image comprises a plurality of intermediate images and said speed controller controls the

number of intermediate images generated by said intermediate image generator.

12. (original) An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said intermediate image

comprises a plurality of intermediate images and said speed controller controls the number

of intermediate images generated by said intermediate image generator.

13.-22. (cancelled)